

Bee City USA - Durham

Report on 2022

Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

Keep Durham Beautiful KDB hosted a tree giveaway in the Merrick Moore Community during March, Community members received native tree saplings to plant in their yards thanks to funding from Burt's Bees. One hundred five community members came out to collect their saplings. KDB has also established pollinator-friendly campuses by planting native plants at Southern High, Glen Elementary, and Merrick Moore Elementary School. In addition, KDB has been upkeeping their own pollinator. They have hosted various volunteer maintenance days in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association (<https://www.ellerbecreek.org/>) ECWA hosted a workday at Pearl Mill Nature Preserve to celebrate Pollinator Week. They took volunteers out to get their hands dirty for a couple of hours of weeding and trimming at a site within the preserve. Interfaith Food Shuttle (<https://www.foodshuttle.org/>) The InterFaith Food Shuttle community garden has continued to grow and donate fresh produce to food banks in the area. Last year, the group hosted multiple volunteer days at the Geer Street Learning Garden to upkeep the 400 sqft communal area. Bull City Trailblazers KDB hosted a tree giveaway in the Merrick Moore Community in March. Community members received native tree saplings to plant in their yards thanks to funding from Burt's Bees to restore pollinator habitats. One hundred five community members came out to collect their saplings. KDB has also established pollinator-friendly school campuses by planting native trees. Last year, KDB engaged 19 students at Glenn Elementary, 43 students at Northern High School, and 85 students at Merrick-Moore elementary through tree plantings. They In addition, KDB has been upkeeping their own pollinator. They have hosted various volunteer maintenance days in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Merrick-Moore CDC The Merrick-Moore Community has been ensuring they are creating pollinator-friendly spaces in their Samuel Green Sr. Community Garden. In December, volunteers sew pollinator seeds into the ground, and as an MLK Day service project, the community planted pollinator bulbs in their garden. City of Durham: Landscape Services and Urban Forestry The Landscape Services and Urban Forestry has planted a total of 1034 trees that are species that are beneficial for pollinators. Over the last year, Landscape services have renovated eight areas around Durham with 6584 herbaceous perennials and shrubs. Of those eight sites, 1463 plants were installed at the Durham Centre Plaza, 1356 were planted at the Durham Police Station, and 1045 plants at the General Services Department.

How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance last year?

24

How many total square feet of habitat were created or enhanced?

4820

How many volunteers helped with those projects?

Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance last year with pollinator benefit in mind.

- Flower garden
- Vegetable garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Native milkweed planting for monarchs and bees (where appropriate)
- Invasive/exotic plant species removal for habitat improvement
- Native pollinator-friendly tree planting
- Native pollinator-friendly shrub border/hedgerow planting
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting
- School garden
- Other



Education & Outreach

Durham County Beekeepers Association (<http://www.durhambeekeepers.org>) Durham County Beekeepers Association (DCBA) has continued to educate the public on beekeeping and pollinators. The association participated in multiple pollinator awareness events throughout the year, such as the Museum of Life and Sciences on their Bees, Beer, and Butterflies program and the Duke Gardens Harvest Festival. In September, the Beekeepers Association hosted an All About Bees educational workshop at South Regional Library. This was an interactive workshop for all-ages that focused on bees and beekeeping. DCBA also hosted their Winter 2022 Beekeepers school with 50 participants signed up. Durham Public School Hub Farm (<https://www.thehubfarm.org>) In the spring, the Durham Public School Hub Farm expanded its Ecobloom 5th Grade Field Trip series. This program allows fifth graders from across Durham County to explore the Hub Farm pollinator gardens. This year, 500 students attended the Ecobloom. Toxic Free NC (<https://toxicfreenc.org>) In honor of Pollinator Week, Toxic Free NC distributed bilingual “Spray Free Zones” signs at the Durham Farmer’s Market during Bee Day in June. The signs are written in Spanish and English and educate people that mosquito sprays kill pollinators. Keep Durham Beautiful (<https://keepdurhambeautiful.org>) Keep Durham Beautiful (KDB) organized Bee Day in June at the Durham Farmer's Market. Local pollinator-focused groups and organizations rallied together to help put on a festival for pollinator-lovers and farmer market goers alike. The festival consisted of numerous interactive tables and educational activities based on bees and pollinators. Approximately 300 individuals attended the event. Honeygirl Meadery (honeygirlmeadery.com) In support of Durham’s Bee City committee, Honeygirl Meadery threw another Pollinator Party this year. This event allowed pollinator lovers to try some tasty mead and the chance to win free pollinator seeds. Radiant Bee Flora & Hana Lee Flower (Lee Crawford) Lee Crawford is a bee-friendly florist working tirelessly with Lakewood Middle School to engage students with gardening spaces. So far, Crawford and the school's PTA Garden club have renovated two gardening areas with pollinator-friendly plants and have been bringing classes outside to help. Overall, 60 volunteers, youth and adults, have worked at the school. Crawford also provided floral arrangements for two weddings, where pollinator plants from pesticide-free farms were used. Bull City Trailblazers (<https://ncwf.org/>) The Bull City Trailblazers, a wildlife chapter affiliated with NC Wildlife Federation, hosted a free webinar called “Pollinators in the Piedmont” with a speaker from the Durham County Master Gardener Cooperative Extension. The talk covered the different species of pollinators that could be found in the piedmont region of North Carolina and threats to pollinators and conservation. Buddha Bee Apiary (<https://www.buddhabeeapiary.com/>) Buddha Bee Apiary has been doing hands-on educational events on beekeeping and pollinators. In December, they presented to a local Girl Scouts Troup and taught them about honey bees and native pollinators. Buddha Bee Apiary has also been encouraging more people to become beekeepers through their beekeeping class for absolute beginners and offering free backyard consultations to anyone interested in installing a beehive. Museum of Life and Sciences (<https://www.lifeandscience.org/>) The Museum of Life and Sciences education team held the Pollinator Week Kickoff in June, inviting organizations that do pollinator-related work to make a display table and talk to guests. The museum also hosted a pollinator-themed social called Bees, Beer, and Butterflies.

How many pollinator-related events did your affiliate host or help with last year (in total)?

How many people attended those events (in total)?

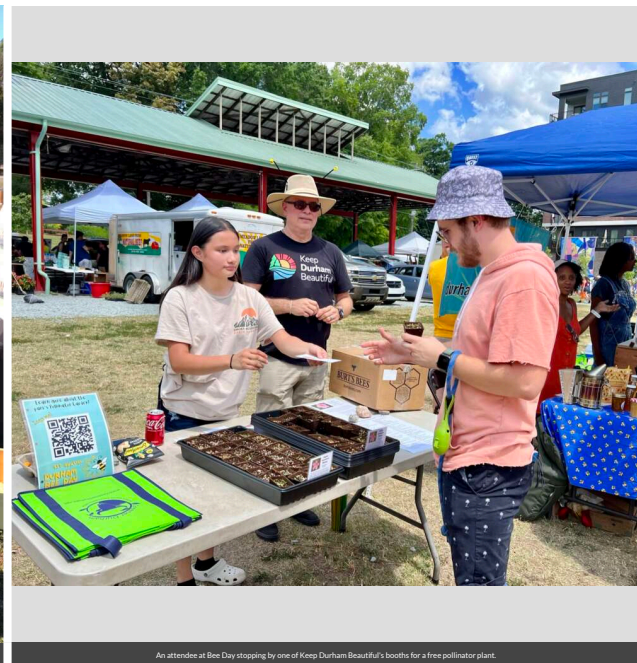
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How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?

2

Did your city council/county commission (highest elected body) issue a proclamation for National Pollinator Week last summer?
Please note: this is now an optional activity.

- Yes



Policies & Practices

Spray Free Zone signs from Toxic Free NC have been distributed to individuals and placed around Durham. At the 2022 Bee Day at the Durham Farmer's Market, 92 signs were handed out. Groups like KDB and NC Wildlife Federation also install "pesticide-free zone" signs at garden sites where they have planted pollinator plants. During the winter, Keep Durham Beautiful and the New Hope Audubon Society promote a "Leave your Leaves" program. This is a program that encourages people to keep tree litter, like leaves, on the ground as a habitat for pollinators over the winter. To show

support for the cause, people can receive a sign for their yard saying "Leave your Leaves" once they sign a pledge from the New Hope Audubon Society.

What actions have you taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly?

- Implemented or maintained a written IPM plan
- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or disease management)
- Implemented non-chemical pest prevention and management methods on city or campus grounds
- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Sourced plants for city or campus grounds that were not treated with neonicotinoids
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants using "Buying Bee-Safe Plants" methods recommended by Xerces Society. (See <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/buying-bee-safe-plants>)
- Encouraged developers and private landscapers to source plants that were not treated with neonicotinoids

Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.

The same pollinator-friendly pest management programs for city properties can also be applied to residential homes and businesses. Many Durham residents joined in, as there was strong support from partnered organizations. DBCC has also taken steps to educate the public on mosquito sprays and the harm they cause to pollinators by distributing "Spray Free Zone" signs.

In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?

In the updated comprehensive plan for 2023, action item 11 states the department of City General Services (CGS) will work with homeowners in Durham to promote sustainable land use. CGS will encourage homeowners to create sustainable landscapes by planting native plants and prohibiting pesticide use. Toxic Free NC lobbied for PACTPA and

is still working on having the EPA remove harmful pesticides from store shelves.

Please describe actions by your affiliate to attend training on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management and/or to review IPM plans and programs considered of high quality by Bee City USA?

Whenever there is information available on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management, it is shared with the DBCC network. The Durham committee meets quarterly, and updates and essential information are always on the agenda. The committee chair also sends a mass email for important announcements, especially about free online forums hosted by Bee City USA. Most committee members do their best to attend the webinars provided by the Xerces Society.

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

<https://ipm.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Recommended Native Plant List:

<https://ncwf.org/habitat/native-pollinator-plants/>

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

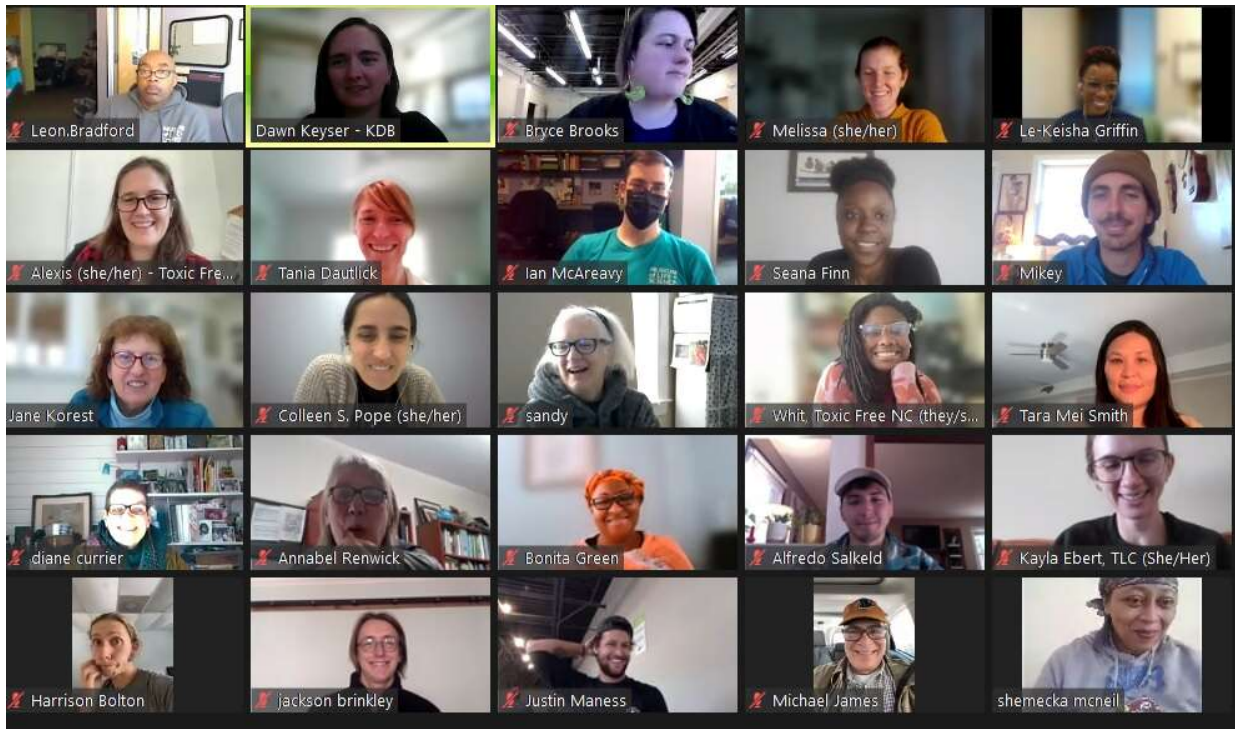
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HAFFrqkUSgBfgAVmmx3H-zEJxJnKjqz7of926ElwOsE/edit#gid=0>



These are the bilingual "Spray Free Zone" signs distributed by Toxic Free NC at 2022 Bee Day. The signs spread awareness about mosquito spray's threat to pollinators.

Learn More

www.durhambeecity.org
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Durham Bee City USA committee during their online fall quarterly meeting.